

Access Control

Conservation Practice WV Job Sheet

Code 472



Definition

The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area.

Purpose

Many habitats and ecosystems such as cave systems, wetlands and riparian areas are very sensitive to disturbance. The exclusion of livestock, animals or people from environmentally sensitive areas is sometimes necessary to achieve a certain objective. The purpose of this practice is to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by monitoring and managing the intensity of use of an area by animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment.

Criteria

Barriers should consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, electronic and sonic devices, signs or the removal of a targeted animal.

The chosen barriers should be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by vehicles, animals or people and not be a safety hazard.

Always comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice; and the life expectancy should be adequate for the intended purpose.

The timing of exclusion periods should be described to accomplish intended purpose. For example, caves are closed for recreation during winter months to restrict disturbance of hibernating bat colonies.

Adequate warnings or markings should be displayed where there is potential danger associated with the use of a barrier.

This practice may be used to restrict access to livestock. Livestock may be excluded by any one of the following barriers:



1. Fence – Refer to NRCS standard Fence – Code 382
2. Living fence or hedge – Refer to Hedgerow Planting – Code 422
3. Other barriers impassable to livestock such as, stone/rock barriers and mining highwalls
4. Permanent removal of the targeted livestock

Where shade and shelter are needed in pastureland that adjoins woodland, construct a fence inside the wooded area 50 to 100 feet from the edge of the pasture. The wooded area that is within the pastured area should be thinned until no more than 1/3 of the area is under tree canopy. The area around the remaining trees should be seeded. Refer to West Virginia Conservation Practice Standard Pasture and Hayland Planting – Code 512 for more information. Planners should take into consideration the species

makeup of the existing pasture and the landowner's future pasture management plans when recommending seed mixtures. For example, tall fescue is shade tolerant, but its management requirements may be different from the existing grasses.



Gates and fences can selectively control use of an area by people and vehicles.

This practice may be used to restrict access to people and vehicles. Methods to exclude people include:

1. Signs
2. Fences
3. Vegetation
4. Physical barriers

Use-regulating activities (e.g., posting of signs, patrolling, gates, fences and other barriers, permits) shall achieve the intended purpose and include mitigating associated resource concerns to acceptable levels during their installation, operation, and maintenance. Activities will complement the application schedule and life span of other practices specified in the conservation plan.



Each activity or measure will identify the entity to be monitored and regulated (animals, people, vehicles and/or equipment) and specify the intent, intensity, amounts, and timing of exclusion by that entity.

Activities may involve temporary to permanent exclusion of one to all entities. Placement, location, dimensions and materials (e.g., signs, gates), and frequency of use (e.g., continuous, specific season, or specific dates) shall be described for each activity including monitoring frequency.

Considerations

Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

Provide for any associated public safety activities such as fire control. The barrier type and design should minimize impacts to non-targeted wildlife, animal movement and human health.

Consider the negative effects of installation of barriers and fences on below-ground cultural resources. Also consider the benefits installation may have on cultural resources by reducing the potential for erosion due to livestock and vehicle traffic. Also consider any liability issues prior to installing barriers.

See Field Office Technical Guide References – *Real Property: Landowner Rights and Responsibilities in West Virginia* and *Real Property: Rural Landowner's Liability and Posting of Land*.

Even though usage of the area is monitored and controlled, the land manager and/or tenant should be advised about emergency preparedness agencies and related information, e.g., the local fire/wildfire control agency and pumper truck water sources on or near the area. Information should be designated initially and re-designated annually.

Operation and Maintenance

This practice may be associated with other component practices and is usually implemented as part of a conservation management system. Follow the operation and maintenance procedure outlined for the individual component practice providing use exclusion (e.g. Fence – Code 382).

At a minimum, barriers must be periodically inspected (at least annually and after storm events) and repairs performed as needed. If vandalism is evident, take measures to increase visibility or reinforce the barrier.



Monitoring of the effectiveness of use-regulating activities should be performed routinely and at least annually with changes incorporated as required. Some modifications to activities and use of measures are allowed temporarily to accommodate emergency-level contingencies such as wildfire, hurricane, drought, or flood as long as resource conditions are maintained.



Poorly timed use of vehicles can accelerate sheet, rill, and concentrated flow erosion on access roads and trails.

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Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following pages of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the WV NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Information contained in this document is considered part of the conservation plan.

Client:		Designed By:		Date:
Farm #:	Tract #:	Field(s):	Area of Access Control (acres) _____	
Goals & Objectives:			Description of Area Being Protected:	

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prevent, restrict, or control access to an area	<input type="checkbox"/> Minimize liability and human health concerns
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____

Use Restriction and Timing (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Animals (List dates if applicable) Species _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Permanently <input type="checkbox"/> From _____ To _____	<input type="checkbox"/> People (List dates if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Permanently <input type="checkbox"/> From _____ To _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles (List dates if applicable) Type _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent <input type="checkbox"/> From _____ To _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Permanently <input type="checkbox"/> From _____ To _____

Method (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gate Dimensions _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fence - Type _____ Dimensions _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation Species _____ Dimensions _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Removal or Relocation of Animals
<input type="checkbox"/> Signs Warning/Marking: _____ _____ _____ Dimensions: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____

Operation and Maintenance - At a minimum, barriers must be periodically inspected (at least annually and after storm events) and repairs performed as needed. If vandalism is evident, take measures to increase visibility or reinforce the barrier. Monitoring of the effectiveness of use-regulating activities will be performed routinely and at least annually with changes made to specifications and operation and maintenance requirements as necessary. Modifications to activities and use of measures are allowed temporarily to accommodate emergency-level contingencies such as wildfire, hurricane, drought, or flood as long as resource conditions are maintained.

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If needed, an aerial view, map or a sketch of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Additional Specifications and Notes: (i.e. additional requirements, operation and maintenance specifics, etc.)

Questions regarding the establishment, operation or maintenance of this practice should be directed to:

_____ at _____

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